

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 676

Washington, D. C.

November 20, 1937

CONGRESS SUMMARY

Farm Bill in Drafting State—Wage and Hour Bill Deadlocked

The first week of the special session of Congress passed with the House Labor Committee going on record as opposed to a recall of S. 2475, the Black-Connery wage and hour bill which is pending before the Rules Committee, and with the House and Senate Agricultural Committees working to draft a general farm bill.

The action of the House Labor Committee was taken on Wednesday, at which time Chairwoman Norton stated that the Committee would not ask for return of the bill but would have amendments to offer. Mrs. Norton is circulating a petition among House members to discharge the Rules Committee from further consideration of the measure. The petition, which requires 218 signatures to be effective, had been signed by about 140 Representatives through Friday. December 13th is the earliest possible date the bill could be brought up on the House floor through discharge proceedings, and upon its consideration on the floor the Labor Committee's several amendments would be the first to receive discussion.

Throughout the week the Agricultural Committees have held daily meetings, the House Committee dividing into subcommittees on the various major crops each afternoon and reporting to the full Committee the following morning. On the Senate side, Chairman Smith announced Thursday that his Committee, which has used a proposal introduced by Senators Pope and McGill last July as a basis of discussion, planned to report a bill on Monday.

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The Tenderometer

Following announcement in the INFORMATION LETTER for November 6th that the American Can Company had assigned to the National Canners Association the patent application for the Tenderometer and the ownership of the patent or patents that may be issued, the Association has received a number of inquiries as to when the machine will be available, from whom it may be purchased, etc.

Details with respect to the license to manufacture are yet to be worked out. At the suggestion of the National Canners Association, the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association has appointed a committee to confer with the National Canners Association regarding the manufacture of the machine and a meeting will be held at an early date.

The National Canners Association will, as promptly as possible, make announcement of the plans adopted for the licensing, manufacture, and distribution of the machine.

Convention Room Reservations

Because requests have been received from several cannery for convention room reservations at the Palmer House, the attention of all members is called to the fact that, under the agreement entered into by the allied associations with the Chicago hotel men's committee, rooms in the Palmer House will be reserved and assigned by the Food Brokers Association for only its members, just as rooms in the Stevens Hotel will be reserved and assigned by the National Canners Association and the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association for the use of only their members.

ANGLO-AMERICAN PACT PLANNED

State Department also Announces Negotiations on Revision of Agreement with Canada

The Secretary of State announced on November 18th that the United States Government contemplates the negotiation of a trade agreement with the United Kingdom, and invited interested persons to submit suggestions as to the products that should be considered.

Formal notice will be issued at a later date, after receipt of the proposals of the Government of the United Kingdom, at which time there will also be made public a list of products on which the United States will consider granting concessions to the United Kingdom.

The object of the preliminary announcement is to provide notification at the earliest possible date that negotiations are contemplated, in order that interested parties may have an opportunity to suggest the import or export products which, in their opinion, should be included in the negotiations. Such suggestions, particularly those in regard to export products, are most useful to the trade-agreements organization if available at an early stage. Full information should be submitted as soon as possible. Exact technical descriptions of the products in question should be given, including, so far as possible, their nomenclature in the tariff laws of the importing country. These suggestions may be submitted in any form, and need not be under oath. They should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee for Reciprocity Information, 7th and F Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., and should reach the Committee not later than December 16, 1937.

A detailed compilation showing the principal products involved in the 1929 and 1936 trade between the United States and the United Kingdom, prepared in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, may be obtained from that Bureau or from any of the District Offices of the Department of Commerce, as well as from the Committee for Reciprocity Information or the Department of State.

The State Department followed the announcement on the contemplated agreement with the United Kingdom with a further announcement that negotiations would also be undertaken with Canada looking toward a revision of the agreement with that country which came into force on January 1, 1936. Those interested in the Canadian agreement are invited to send their suggestions as to products which should be included in the negotiations to the Committee on Reciprocity Information not later than December 17th. A compilation of statistics on the principal products in the trade between the United States and Canada is available from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or the Committee on Reciprocity Information.

CONGRESS SUMMARY

(Continued from page 5397)

Three more wage, hour, and child labor bills have been introduced, also a new bill by Delegate Dimond of Alaska for the purpose of protecting the Alaska salmon fisheries from foreign exploitation through a declaration of property right in all salmon spawned in territorial waters of the United States and the establishment of protective areas in the waters adjacent to the Alaskan Coast.

The new labor bills have been submitted by Representative Lamneck of Ohio, Phillips of Connecticut, and Connery of Massachusetts, a brother of the late chairman of the House Labor Committee. The Lamneck bill would designate the maintenance of oppressive wages, hours, or child labor as an unfair method of competition in commerce and would confer enforcement jurisdiction on the Federal Trade Commission. The Phillips bill would make it unlawful for any person to permit or require an employee to work in excess of 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week and for any person to pay an employee less than 35 cents per hour. The bill would exempt persons "employed in agricultural production." Representative Connery's bill would establish a 40-hour week and a 40-cent per hour minimum wage.

Pursuant to Senate Resolution 108 adopted last session the Secretary of Agriculture filed a report on recommendations for crop insurance for fruits and vegetables stating that "the Department will not be in position to make recommendations for the establishment of a system of crop insurance for fruits and vegetables until it has conducted some rather extensive researches, investigations, and field surveys and classified the data thus gathered * * *. These researches, investigations, and surveys will, of course, entail considerable expense for which no appropriation is available." Secretary Wallace went on to point out that the pending crop insurance bill for wheat makes provision for funds for such work.

A subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has set November 30th as a tentative date for hearings on the Patman bill (H. R. 4722) to prohibit manufacturers from engaging in retail business in competition with retailers handling their products.

The House on Thursday, without objection, agreed to a resolution proposed by Representative Chapman requesting the Secretary of Agriculture to furnish the House of Representatives the facts regarding the drug sold commercially as "Elixir sulfanilamide," the steps taken by the Food and Drug Administration with respect to such violations of existing laws as may have been involved in the interstate distribution

of such drug, and facts with respect to deficiencies in existing law from the standpoint of protecting the consuming public from the dangers involved in the interstate distribution and sale to the public of new and inadequately tested drugs.

FRUIT OUTLOOK FOR 1938

Review of Situation by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics

In its report on the fruit outlook for 1938, issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on November 10th, there is presented detailed information with reference to a number of crops in which canners are interested. Limitations of space make it impossible to reproduce the report in its entirety, but the following excerpts furnish a summary of some of the more important data given in the report:

General Summary

The average production of all fruits during the next five years (1937-41) will probably be larger than the average for the 5-year period (1932-36) just passed. Demand on the other hand will probably average higher during the next 5-year period than the 5-year period just passed, which included the depression years, with the result that total income from fruit production will probably be somewhat higher. During the remainder of the present marketing year, ending in June, 1938, demand conditions are apt to be somewhat lower than during the first part of the season and with large citrus and apple crops the seasonal rise in prices is apt to be less than usual.

The outlook for the fruit industry as a whole is considerably influenced by the level of income of consumers. Consumer demand for the total of all fruits combined is such that large fruit crops tend to result in about the same gross income as do small fruit crops. The citrus industry as a whole can not expect much improvement in prices as the crop increases with the increase in bearing acreage and, more particularly, the increasing production of trees already in bearing. Apple, pear, grape and peach growers, on the other hand may expect some improvement in prices. But increased buying power of consumers would be a favorable influence on prices even in those instances in which total production is very large, and the gross returns to growers from sales of all fruits combined would probably move upward with an increase in consumer income.

Average per capita production of the seven major fruits during the 6-year period 1925-30 was 167 pounds—the same as during the past 6-year period 1931-36. Some shifts have occurred in the composition of the total, however, as shown in the following table:

	1919-24 Lbs. per capita	1925-30 Lbs. per capita	1931-36 Lbs. per capita
Apples.....	71	61	57
Peaches.....	21	20	19
Pears.....	8	9	10
Grapes.....	31	38	32
Citrus, total.....	30	39	49
Oranges.....	21	27	32
Grapefruit.....	6	8	12
Lemons.....	3	4	5
Total.....	161	167	167

The increase in citrus production in recent years has offset the declines in apples and grapes. From the present indications it appears that during the next five years a somewhat larger total per capita supply of fruit may be expected, but

an increasing proportion of this supply will be comprised of citrus fruits.

Increasing competition may be expected in foreign markets during the next five years. Not only is the trend of fruit production upward in most countries for both deciduous and citrus fruits, but many European countries are taking steps to insure a larger production of deciduous fruits and to improve the quality of the crops. On the other hand, the long-time outlook for United States fruit exports has been improved by the modification and reduction of trade barriers that has taken place as a result of the trade agreements the United States has concluded within the last three years. In practically all of these agreements some concessions were obtained on fruit from the United States. Moreover, purchasing power has been improving in the principal countries to which the United States exports fruit and should continue to improve during 1938.

Apples

The long-time trend in total apple production in the United States is expected to be downward at a moderate rate. With average growing conditions, annual production probably will approach 140,000,000 bushels by 1945 compared with present production under average growing conditions of about 156,000,000 bushels.

Production of dessert apples in the chief producing countries outside of the United States is on a slightly upward trend. Improvements are being made in cultural practices in most apple-growing countries.

In the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States production in recent years has been fairly stable at about 50,000,000 to 55,000,000 bushels per year. The peak of production has apparently been passed for the region as a whole, and the general trend is expected to be slightly downward.

In the Central States where annual production varies tremendously, increasing production from young orchards probably will about offset decreasing production from old commercial and farm orchards for several years, assuming average growing conditions.

In the Eastern States, the removal of unprofitable farm orchards continues. Although production of some of the more popular varieties may increase for several years, on the whole the number of trees yet to come into bearing is not sufficient to maintain the present number of trees of bearing age.

Cherries

Indications are that cherry production in the United States, during the next three to five years, with average growing conditions, will be slightly larger than average production during the past five years. It is expected that the considerable number of trees yet to come into bearing will probably more than offset any normal losses and abandonment of orchards for the next few years.

The number of cherry trees in the United States according to the 1935 census was slightly more than 15,000,000, of which about 11,000,000 were in the 12 important commercial producing States. This is the largest number since 1910.

In the 12 States—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon and California—the number of trees changed only slightly from 1910 to 1920. From 1920 to 1930 the number of trees increased 16 per cent and during the period 1930-35 there was an additional increase of 16 per cent.

As reported by the 1935 census the ratio of non-bearing to total number of trees in these 12 States was about 22 per cent, or the same as it was about 15 years ago. In 1930, 37 per cent of trees had not yet reached bearing age. With the large number of young trees yet to come into bearing the trend of

potential production seems to be upward, in all of the States except Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and possibly California. Recent reports indicate that abandonment of commercial orchards since the 1935 census was taken has been relatively small. Since there is a large number of trees yet to come into bearing, production in the 12 States is expected to be well above the 5-year (1928-32) average of 116,700 tons and will continue to increase for a few years unless there is considerable abandonment of orchards from freezing and disease.

Cherry production has fluctuated widely from year to year but the general trend has been upward for a number of years. A peak was reached in 1932 when the estimated production in the 12 important States was 143,300 tons as compared with the 1928-32 average of 116,700 tons (revised figures). From 1933 to 1935 it fluctuated from about 131,000 to 138,000 tons, and dropped below average to 115,000 tons in 1936. Production of both sweet and sour cherries in 1937 (preliminary report) is estimated to be 144,000 tons, slightly more than was produced in 1932 and 23 per cent greater than the 5-year average.

The following table shows the production of all varieties of cherries in recent years in the five Eastern and seven Western States:

	1934	1935	1936	1937
State	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
EASTERN				
New York.....	20,630	22,910	13,280	21,750
Sweet.....	1,260	2,390	1,670	1,770
Sour.....	19,370	20,520	11,610	19,980
Pennsylvania.....	7,720	9,880	5,120	9,890
Ohio.....	6,070	7,380	1,380	7,340
Michigan.....	29,900	30,590	29,890	39,100
Sweet.....	1,800	2,510	2,260	2,540
Sour.....	28,100	28,080	27,630	36,560
Wisconsin.....	7,760	10,820	2,790	13,500
Total.....	72,080	81,580	52,460	91,580
WESTERN				
Montana.....	550	500	110	340
Idaho.....	2,920	2,950	1,890	1,760
Colorado.....	5,230	4,010	700	3,460
Utah.....	2,400	2,200	3,400	2,100
Washington.....	18,000	16,000	18,000	13,500
Oregon.....	13,000	15,800	15,600	12,400
California.....	17,000	15,000	23,000	18,900
Total.....	59,100	56,460	62,700	52,460

During the 4-year period 1933-36 available figures indicate that the total United States cherry crops have been utilized approximately as follows: canned, 26 per cent; barreled in brine, 11 per cent; frozen, 7 per cent; used fresh and purchased by brokers for city manufactures, 56 per cent.

Owing to the high yields in the Eastern States the 1937 pack of red pitted cherries is estimated to be about 2,341,000 cases (all sizes), which is 9 per cent less than the large pack in 1935, but 61 per cent greater than the small pack in 1936, and 23 per cent more than the 4-year average for 1933-36. Figures are not yet available for the 1937 pack of sweet cherries but no doubt the total will be considerably smaller than the 569,800 cases (all sizes) packed in 1936, because of rain damage in the Northwest. The general trend in volume of canned cherries has been upward during the last 10 or more years. This upward trend, however, is due almost entirely to the increase in the pack of red pitted cherries as the trend in volume of canned sweet cherries has been slightly downward in recent years.

Stocks of frozen cherries in storage September 1, totaled 26,853,000 pounds, of which about 2,000,000 pounds were carry-over from the 1936 pack. This indicates that about

25,000,000 pounds were frozen in 1937 as compared with an average of about 20,000,000 pounds in 1936 and 17,000,000 pounds for the 4-year period 1933-36.

Figures for 1937 are not yet available on the volume of cherries brined in barrels to be used principally for manufacturing Maraschino-type packs. This industry is largely confined to Oregon, Washington, and California where the Royal Ann variety is used for brining purposes. Some black varieties such as Bing and Lambert are now being barreled in brine and some sour cherries are brined in several of the eastern States. Washington, Oregon, and California produced nearly 124,000 barrels of approximately 250 pounds net in 1936, representing 15,500 tons. This was the largest pack on record and exceeds the previous record pack of 12,000 tons in 1933. It is believed that the volume brined in 1937 will be close to that of last year. Indications are that the volume of Royal Ann cherries for brining will continue to increase slightly for a few years and that the brining of sour cherries in the Eastern States will decline somewhat.

Grapefruit

Bearing acreage of grapefruit has increased rapidly during recent years and the trend of production is sharply upward. Last season (1936-37), when growing conditions were only slightly above average, a record-high crop of 30,281,000 boxes was produced, which is 80 per cent above the average production of 16,869,000 boxes during the previous five years. Since only 31 per cent of the bearing trees had reached the age of full production in 1937, the trend of production during the next decade is likely to continue upward because of the increasing bearing capacity of the large number of relatively young trees.

Much of the expected increase in production will take place in the seedless varieties of grapefruit. Bearing trees in this group are two-thirds of the total bearing trees of all grapefruit and represent plantings of which only 15 per cent have reached full production. The seedless varieties predominate in Texas, California and Arizona.

Under the average growing conditions of recent years, and in the light of recent production trends and potential increases in bearing surface of young trees, it seems certain that the average production of the next five marketing seasons (1937-41) will exceed 25,000,000 boxes, and may approach 30,000,000 boxes. It appears that crops of 30,000,000 boxes or more can be expected with increasing frequency during the next ten years, whereas in the decade preceding 1936-37, the production averaged about 14,700,000 boxes and in only one season (1934-35) reached 20,000,000 boxes. As large crops in recent years have resulted in low prices to growers, the problem of operating groves at a profit will become more acute as production increases. Production in foreign countries is also increasing and exports will meet with greater competition.

The trend in grapefruit production has been closely associated with the trend in the number of bearing trees. According to United States Census enumerations, there were 10,079,000 bearing trees in groves in 1935, compared with 3,473,000 in 1925, and 1,937,000 in 1920. The number of bearing trees in 1935 was 3 times the number in 1925 and 5 times the number in 1920. Production from the bloom of 1936 (1 year after the 1935 Census) was $3\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than production in 1925-26, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than the crop of 1920-21. Production during the next five years, however, probably will be influenced to a greater extent by the development of young trees already in bearing. Nonbearing trees reached a peak of 4,127,000 in 1930 and declined to 3,079,000 in 1935.

An analysis of surveys conducted in California, Florida,

Texas and Arizona during recent years indicates a total of 12,777,000 bearing trees (5 years old and over) in groves as of July, 1937. Of this total, 69 per cent were from 5 to 15 years of age and had not reached full production; 31 per cent were 16 years and over, or at an age approximating full production. It is significant that 50 per cent of the bearing trees are 5 to 10 years of age. This means that as this large proportion of young trees increases in producing capacity it seems inevitable that production will mount to successively higher levels.

Material increases are to be expected in Texas, Arizona, and California, where the trees now in full production amount to only 4, 5, and 29 per cent, respectively, of total bearing trees. Production in Texas jumped from a previous high of 2,762,000 boxes in 1935-36 to 9,231,000 boxes in 1936-37, and with 76 per cent of bearing trees falling in the 5 to 10 year old group, future production probably will increase very rapidly. Texas now has nearly as many bearing trees as Florida, having increased from only 5,500 in 1920 to 4,913,000 in 1937. Florida production of 18,100,000 boxes in 1936-37 was also a record crop. In Florida, however, only 21 per cent of the bearing trees are in the 5 to 10 year age group and 61 per cent are near the age of full production; hence, the upward trend in production in this State will not be so pronounced as in other States.

The exact trend of total grapefruit production is difficult to forecast because it is not possible to foresee unusual growing hazards, such as hurricanes and freezes, to which the crops may be subjected. But assuming the average growing conditions of recent years, and allowing for the potential increase in bearing surface of young trees, the present bearing acreage would permit an average production during the next five years of approximately 30,000,000 boxes.

Neglect and abandonment of unprofitable groves is a possible modifying factor in the future trend of production. Removals made in Texas during the last two or three years amounted to more than 800,000 trees. These removals, however, consisted largely of trees damaged by the hurricane of 1933, or of trees in unfavorable locations. The weather in Texas has been favorable during the last two years and groves that survived the 1933 hurricane have practically recuperated from the damage of that year. In Florida the freeze of December, 1934, caused considerable loss of non-bearing trees but no material loss of bearing trees. At present, the majority of grapefruit groves are well cared for in the various States and current tree removals are few.

The canning factory has become an important marketing outlet for grapefruit in Florida and Texas in recent years. Since 1928 there has been a rapid increase in the canning of grapefruit juice and sections, and during the 1936-37 season about 34 per cent of the total production of Florida and Texas was used for this purpose. The total pack of grapefruit sections in Florida, Texas, California, Arizona, and Puerto Rico increased from about 1,051,000 cases (equivalent cases of 24 No. 2 cans) in 1928-29 to the record of 4,301,000 cases in 1936-37; the total pack of grapefruit juice increased from 205,000 to the record of 6,461,000 cases during the same period.

Exports of canned grapefruit have shown a rapid increase in the last six years and prospects appear favorable for continued heavy exports in the next few years. Exports of canned grapefruit segments and juice in the 10-month period, November to August, of the 1936-37 season totaled 1,083,000 cases compared with 823,000 cases in the same months of the 1935-36 season. Total exports for the 1936-37 season will be about equal or larger than the record exports of 1,159,000 cases in 1934-35.

Exports of canned grapefruit segments and juice from November to October 1937-38 will depend chiefly on the

size of the 1937-38 pack since there appears to be a good export demand. Little competition has developed so far from foreign suppliers of canned grapefruit but steps are being taken in Palestine to utilize citrus fruits in the byproducts plants. Probably the strongest competition at present is from Japanese canned mandarin-orange segments.

The large grapefruit crops of the last three seasons have returned prices to growers about equal to the low prices received for smaller crops in the depression years of 1931 and 1932. Moreover, as production has expanded, increasing quantities of grapefruit have been utilized by canning plants. Of the 30,281,000-box crop in 1936-37, over one-fourth was used in the canning of juice and segments for commercial outlets and, in addition, 3,000,000 boxes, or 10 per cent, was purchased by the Federal Government for relief distribution. Although the canning of grapefruit tends to decrease the pressure of increasing supplies upon the fresh-fruit market, this is to some extent offset by competition of the canned product with fresh grapefruit.

Peaches

Peach production in the United States in the next five years will probably average slightly higher than in 1933-37. Anticipated improvement in demand as compared with the last five years is likely to at least offset the effect of larger supplies, and prices are expected to continue generally favorable to growers. In any year when growing conditions are considerably above average, however, marketing difficulties are likely to be experienced.

At this time, when the outlook for production and prices for several years is favorable, the danger of overexpansion of the industry should be recognized. Periods of fairly profitable prices in the past have often stimulated planting so that overproduction and severe losses to growers resulted in some districts. The industry from 5 to 15 years hence may be faced with burdensome market supplies if planting continues at the present or an increased rate over a period of years.

Most of the peaches grown in the United States, exclusive of California, are used or marketed as fresh fruit. In this entire region the number of trees declined about 23 per cent from 1925 to 1935. The rate of planting was very low from 1930 to 1934 but has increased since 1934. Commercial orchards are generally in good condition and it seems probable that average production for the next five years in the United States other than California, may slightly exceed the average of 30,000,000 bushels produced in the period 1933-37.

The total number of peach trees in California declined from 1925 to 1935. Indications are that the decrease in tree numbers had practically ceased in 1936 and that if prices remain favorable tree numbers may increase moderately.

Peaches grown in California are of two types, clingstone, used primarily for canning, and freestone, used for drying and fresh consumption. The 1936 California Fruit and Nut Acreage Survey indicates that approximately 17 per cent of the total number of trees were not of bearing age. Production of both clingstone and freestone peaches in the next five years is expected to average approximately the same or slightly larger than in the last five years.

In California, peaches used commercially for canning in 1932-36 averaged roughly 9,000,000 bushels (216,000 tons), which was approximately 43 per cent of total production for the State. Those used for drying averaged about 5,200,000 bushels (125,000 tons) annually, or about 25 per cent of the total production. For a number of years preceding 1935, large quantities of California peaches, principally clingstones, were not harvested because of excessive supplies and market conditions.

Approximately 17 per cent of the 1932-36 commercial production of canned peaches and 15 per cent of the commercial production of dried peaches were exported. Exports of fresh peaches are of minor importance. Exports of canned, dried, and fresh peaches in terms of fresh fruit averaged about 5 per cent of the United States production in 1932-36. Approximately 12 per cent of the California production has been exported in various forms.

Pears

Larger pear crops may be expected in the United States for a number of years because of the large number of young trees that have not yet reached full bearing capacity. Practically all of the increase in production is taking place in the three Pacific Coast States. With the exception of the East North Central States, production in other parts of the United States is declining.

The total pear crop in this country has increased since the turn of the century from 6,625,000 bushels in 1899 to an all-time record of 29,822,000 bushels in 1937. The increase has been at a slower rate in the last decade than in the decade preceding it. About two-thirds of the pear crop is produced in the Pacific Coast States. Around 74 per cent of the pears produced on the Pacific Coast in the 5-year period, 1932-36, have been Bartlett pears. In California the proportion runs somewhat higher, but less than half of the Oregon production comprises Bartlett pears. Plantings in the latter State have run heavily to winter varieties such as Anjou and Bosc. The Kieffer and Bartlett varieties lead in most other States.

The pear production in California, Oregon and Washington has averaged as follows:

Year	California 1,000 bus.	Oregon 1,000 bus.	Washington 1,000 bus.
1927-31:			
Bartlett.....	7,919	1,271	2,629
Others.....	1,148	1,445	885
Total.....	9,067	2,716	3,514
1932-36:			
Bartlett.....	7,552	1,383	3,577
Others.....	1,532	1,722	1,194
Total.....	9,084	3,105	4,771

The pear crop is utilized in three ways—fresh, dried, and canned. For the United States as a whole about 70 per cent of the crop is consumed fresh and 30 per cent is canned and dried. Most of the canneries are in the Pacific Coast States and all of the drying takes place in California. In the 5-year period, 1932-36, the pear crop harvested on the Pacific Coast was utilized about as follows: 60 per cent was sold for fresh consumption, 31 per cent canned and 9 per cent dried.

Canned-pear production in 1937 is expected to fall somewhat short of the 5,300,000 cases packed on the Pacific Coast in 1936; but with a larger canned salad and cocktail pack expected, the total quantity of pears used for canning will probably not be much less than the 160,000 short tons (6,700,000 bushels) used for this purpose in 1936. A record quantity of 8,200 short tons of dried pears were produced in 1936 but low prices and a large carry-over point to a much smaller pack this year. Preliminary estimates indicate an output of less than half of last year's pack.

The number of bearing trees in the United States has decreased considerably during the last decade but the number of bearing pear trees in 1935 was only slightly smaller than in 1900. Of a total of 19,436,000 pear trees in 1935, 86 per cent were in bearing compared with 21,271,000 trees in 1930, of which 75 per cent were in bearing. The commercial pear industry of the United States has shifted from the East to

the West in the last 25 years. Only about 16 per cent of the pear trees in the country were located in the Pacific Coast States in 1910 whereas about one-half of the trees and 69 per cent of the crop was centered in these States in 1935.

Slightly less than one-fifth of the total pear crop of the United States has been exported in one form or another in the last five years. About half of the exports comprised fresh pears and the other half canned and dried pears. Export markets take almost one-sixth of the pears used for fresh consumption, over one-third of the canned pear production, and about four-fifths of the dried-pear output.

Indications are that exports of fresh pears will be somewhat larger in the 1937-38 season than last year but exports of canned and dried pears will probably be no larger than last year. Supplies of fresh, canned, and dried pears in the United States are large whereas European pear crops, at least in the chief importing countries, are smaller than last year. In addition, purchasing power is somewhat better in most European importing countries.

National Cherry Week Plans

Plans for the 1938 National Cherry Week were formulated at a meeting of cherry canners held in Chicago, November 10th, when Dan F. Gerber of the Fremont Canning Company was elected chairman. The Cherry pie-baking contest will be held at Chicago on February 22nd, and will be open to girls of high school age, one from each State. The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize and a trip to the White House in Washington.

Court Declares Federal Filled Milk Act Unconstitutional

The Federal Filled Milk Act, which became law on March 4, 1923, has been declared unconstitutional by the Federal Court for the Southern District of Illinois. This Act was passed by Congress for the purpose of forbidding the interstate distribution of any combination of milk, cream, or skim milk with any fat or oil other than milk fat so as to resemble or imitate pure milk, cream, or skim milk, in any form. The Food and Drug Administration announced its purpose to seek a review of the decision by the United States Supreme Court.

Minnesota Canners Meet December 2nd

The annual convention of the Minnesota Canners Association will be held at the Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis, on December 2nd. There will be morning and afternoon sessions, and a banquet in the evening.

Canada Canners Meet December 7th and 8th

The National Canners Association of Canada, it is announced, will hold its annual convention on December 7th and 8th at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

Fred E. Hulbert

Fred E. Hulbert, general manager of the Saukville Canning Company, died at Port Washington, Wisconsin, on October 26th at the age of 67. He had been associated with the canning industry since 1895. Funeral services were held at Port Washington, with interment at Pewaukee.

Complaint Issued Against Inoculant Manufacturers

Alleging discrimination in price in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act, the Federal Trade Commission recently issued substantially identical complaints against four firms manufacturing and distributing nitrogen-fixing bacteria, a commodity commonly known as a commercial inoculant which is useful in promoting the growth of leguminous plants and crops. The respondents named in the four complaints are the Agricultural Laboratories, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio; Hansen Inoculator Company, Inc., of Urbana, Illinois; The Urbana Laboratories also of Urbana; and The Nitragin Company, Inc., of Milwaukee.

The complaints merely allege in general language that the respondents are selling to some purchasers at prices lower than the prices at which sales are made to other purchasers, and that some purchasers are allowed discounts larger than the discounts allowed to others.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

VEGETABLES	Week ending—			Season total to—		
	Nov. 13 1936	Nov. 13 1937	Nov. 6 1937	Nov. 13 1936	Nov. 13 1937	
Beans, snap and lima.	299	223	194	9,297	8,999	
Tomatoes.	202	205	319	25,014	23,855	
Green peas.	164	102	110	7,633	7,344	
Spinach.	123	78	30	7,806	8,436	
Others:						
Domestic, competing directly.	2,121	2,218	2,450	117,072	118,312	
Imports, competing indirectly.	68	74	80	566	710	
FRUITS						
Citrus, domestic.	3,220	1,996	1,977	14,335	12,653	
Imports.	2	9	8	95	119	
Others, domestic.	1,499	1,619	1,921	47,837	51,899	

Rural Retail Sales in October

Daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas for October were about 3½ per cent above October of last year and, with the exception of December, 1936, and December, 1929, were higher than for any month during the past nine years, according to estimates of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, based on rural chain store and mail order sales. The increase from September to October was of the usual seasonal amount. Total sales for the first ten months of the year showed an increase of about 8½ per cent as compared with the corresponding period of 1936.

Grocery Chain Store Sales for October

Daily average sales of grocery chain stores for October were about 1 per cent above the dollar volume for October, 1936, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Sales increased from September to October by less than the usual seasonal amount. Daily average sales for the first ten months of the year were about 2 per cent above the corresponding period of 1936.

Associated Grocery Manufacturers Convention

The twenty-ninth annual convention of the Associated Grocery Manufacturers of America will be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City on November 29th and 30th. Among speakers at the convention will be Attorney General Homer Cummings and Chairman Marvin Jones of the House Committee on Agriculture.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

Fresh and Frozen Fruits and Frozen Vegetables Included in Report

Cold storage holdings of apples in the United States on November 1st were about 22 per cent larger than the stocks reported on the same date a year ago and 13 per cent larger than the 5-year (1932-36) average, according to the monthly cold storage report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The 1937 holdings, however, represent only 15 per cent of the total estimated apple production, while a year ago 22 per cent of the crop was reported in cold storage; 19 per cent is average for recent years.

Packed Bartlett pears have moved from cold storage into consumption channels at a faster rate this year than in 1936 or 1935. Winter varieties of pears are reported at 2,347,000 boxes, which is a 55 per cent increase over the holdings on November 1, 1936, and 29 per cent above average. The record November 1st holdings for winter pears was 2,812,000 boxes in 1930.

Cold storage holdings of "quick freeze" fruits and vegetables have maintained a sharp upward trend during recent years. Total supplies of frozen and preserved fruits in cold storage plants reached a record high of 134,178,000 pounds on October 1st. And the quantity on hand November 1st totaled 129,683,000 pounds, which exceeds the previous November record (1931) by 30,449,000 pounds. Receipts of lima beans, sweet corn, and spinach during October were mainly responsible for a 5 per cent increase in total frozen vegetable holdings during the past month.

The following table furnishes detailed figures:

	Nov. 1, 1936	Oct. 1, 1937	Nov. 1, 1937
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Apples:			
Barrels.....	313	135	492
Western boxes.....	12,743	1,612	12,099
Bushels ^a	11,763	5,421	17,328
Pears:			
Bartletts (packed boxes)...	252	218	63
Bartletts (loose boxes).....	89	953	131
Others (boxes).....	1,511	2,026	2,347
Others (baskets).....	99	111	75
Frozen fruits:			
Strawberries (pounds).....	34,707	31,653	
Blueberries (pounds).....	5,421	6,224	
Cherries (pounds).....	28,023	22,924	
Other ^b (pounds).....	66,027	68,882	
Frozen vegetables:			
Peas (pounds).....	10,875	10,489	
Beans, cut (pounds).....	2,133	2,045	
Beans, lima (pounds).....	5,018	5,382	
Corn (pounds).....	1,913	2,307	
Spinach (pounds).....	631	1,982	
Other (pounds).....	6,120	5,720	

^a Includes baskets and Eastern boxes or crates.

^b Includes some quantities of preserved fruits.

DRAINED WEIGHTS OF PEARS

Canners Requested to Make Recommendations Regarding Suggested Requirements

In the INFORMATION LETTER for April 17, it was suggested that all pear canners give attention to the figures suggested in the "Tentative Standard for Canned Pears" issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, under date of June 22, 1936, and make recommendations to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in order that, when the tentative standards were made official, they would contain appropriate data. The tentative standard referred to fixes the following drained weights for cans of different sizes:

Can Size	Can Dimension	Minimum drained weight Ounces
8Z Short.....	211 x 300	5
8Z Tall.....	211 x 304	5½
No. 1 (Picnic).....	211 x 400	7
No. 1 Tall.....	301 x 411	10½
No. 2.....	307 x 409	13½
No. 2½.....	401 x 411	20
No. 3.....	404 x 414	22½
No. 10.....	603 x 700	70
No. 10 water pack.....	603 x 700	76
No. 10 solid pack (pie).....	603 x 700	92

The Association is advised by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that the Bureau has heard from very few canners regarding the proposed drained weights.

It is again suggested that canners look into this matter, giving special attention to the weights that are possible and the weights that are normal in cans of various sizes, including the 8-ounce can. Canners' views should then be communicated to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

CROP ESTIMATES

Bureau Issues Preliminary Production Figures on Beans and Corn

Preliminary estimates of the production of green and wax beans, lima beans, and sweet corn for manufacture have been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, from which the following tables showing the harvested acreage and estimated production in 1937 as compared with 1936, are taken:

State	Lima Beans		Production	
	Acreage		Production	
	1936 Acres	1937 Acres	1936 Tons	1937 Tons
New Jersey.....	6,200	9,900	3,410	5,590
Delaware.....	8,400	9,800	6,230	4,900
Maryland.....	3,200	3,200	2,080	1,600
Virginia.....	5,500	6,000	3,580	3,300
Michigan.....	3,670	3,300	1,950	1,570
Wisconsin.....	900	1,900	480	770
Other States ^a	4,870	7,820	2,420	3,970
Total.....	32,740	41,920	20,140	21,700

^a "Other States" include: Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

Green and Wax Beans

State	Acreage		Production	
	1936 Acres	1937 Acres	1936 Tons	1937 Tons
Maine.....	1,150	1,460	3,000	3,800
New York.....	7,900	8,400	11,100	15,100
Pennsylvania.....	1,950	2,200	2,900	4,200
Indiana.....	1,140	1,600	1,300	2,700
Michigan.....	5,400	6,300	6,500	8,200
Wisconsin.....	5,730	6,900	6,300	8,300
Delaware.....	720	1,000	1,200	1,700
Maryland.....	9,760	9,400	13,700	16,000
South Carolina.....	200	400	100	400
Tennessee.....	1,600	2,250	1,300	3,600
Mississippi.....	1,350	2,150	1,200	1,500
Arkansas.....	100	2,700	700	2,700
Louisiana.....	1,900	1,800	900	1,800
Colorado.....	920	1,000	2,300	2,600
Utah.....	760	1,050	2,000	3,300
Washington.....	690	950	2,800	4,500
Oregon.....	1,340	1,750	7,600	11,000
California.....	880	740	3,700	3,000
Other States ^a	6,690	7,860	7,900	7,600
Total.....	50,180	59,910	76,500	102,000

^a "Other States" include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Sweet Corn

State	Acreage		Production	
	1936 Acres	1937 Acres	1936 Tons	1937 Tons
Maine.....	15,800	18,200	61,600	63,700
New Hampshire.....	830	750	2,700	2,900
Vermont.....	1,120	1,250	3,200	3,100
New York.....	23,300	21,400	37,300	40,700
Pennsylvania.....	7,800	8,800	21,100	17,600
Ohio.....	24,850	22,000	37,300	41,800
Indiana.....	44,000	51,400	39,600	107,900
Illinois.....	78,000	89,400	117,000	196,700
Michigan.....	6,430	6,000	5,800	8,400
Wisconsin.....	17,200	24,300	25,800	41,300
Minnesota.....	66,700	72,100	100,000	180,200
Iowa.....	37,500	54,300	41,200	114,000
Nebraska.....	(^a)	3,200	2,900
Delaware.....	3,540	3,850	10,600	10,000
Maryland.....	34,000	37,600	78,200	82,700
Tennessee.....	2,300	2,500	7,800	7,000
Other States ^b	9,050	12,950	18,300	31,200
Total.....	372,420	430,000	607,500	952,100

^a No acreage harvested in Nebraska—complete failure.

^b "Other States" include: Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

Broadcast on Commodity Distribution

Commodity distribution will be the general subject of the broadcast by the Department of Commerce on November 30th, in its series of "Stories of American Industry." The guest speaker will be Mr. Gerard Swope, President of the

General Electric Company and his subject "A Thousand Laboratories for Every Home." The program will be on the air from 4.30 to 5.00 p. m. Eastern Standard time over the Columbia coast-to-coast network.

DAMAGE IN SHIPMENT

Freight Claim Division of A. R. A. Asks Consignees to Report to Shippers

In a further effort to determine the cause and reduce the amount of damage to canned goods in shipment, the Freight Claim Division of the Association of American Railroads has suggested that consignees report to the shipper instances where damage resulted from any fault in the loading or in the container. In making this suggestion the Division referred to the distribution that has been made to canners and distributors of the poster entitled "Sure Methods to Reduce Losses from Dented Cans" and the pamphlet "Loading Recommendations for Commodities in Fiber Containers." It likewise quoted the specifications for fiber canned food boxes recommended by the National Canners Association.

The Division states that, with this information as to loading methods and the approved specifications for boxes, consignees are in position to determine whether cans received in damaged condition were loaded according to recommended standard practice, likewise to ascertain whether the boxes meet the standard requirements.

For the information of canners who may not have readily at hand the specifications recommended by the National Canners Association after a study by a special committee, they are here reproduced:

"Where gross weight exceeds 35 pounds but does not exceed 50 pounds, Cady or Mullen test of boxes to be not less than 220 pounds per square inch; where gross weight exceeds 50 pounds but does not exceed 65 pounds, Cady or Mullen test of boxes to be not less than 250 pounds per square inch.

"In purchasing boxes canners should require that they meet or exceed these requirements, and that packages be so made as to hold the contents securely in place after the package has been properly sealed."

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